Numb. 26.

Heraclitus Ridens:

AT

A Dialogue between Jeſt and Earneſt, concerning the Times.

Tueſday, July the 26th. 1681.

Jeſt. NAY verily, Friend *Richard*, it is even ſo, thou haſt not the Light in thee, and therefore thou art fallen into the Snare.

Earn. Why ſo ſerious Mr. *Jeſt?*

Jeſt. I was lamenting the Condition of Mr. *Impartial* of *Queens-head-Alley*, he uſed to give me very much diverſion, to ſee him play at Blindmans Buff with himſelf, but they ſay he has run his Head againſt a Poſt or a pillar of a Conventicle; and has ſo crack'd his antler Room, that if he be not trepan'd for it he will fall into a Miſpriſion, though others think he may die of the peſtilential Feaver of Treaſon, and I ſhall want him extreamly to laugh at.

Earn. You are wonderfully concerned.

Jeſt. I proteſt I am almoſt as much troubled as the poor Countrey Fellow was for his Wife when ſhe lay a dying, who ſwore by no Beggars, that he had rather have loſt the beſt Cow in his Stall.

Earn. But pray, how came *Dick* to get this Diſaſter?

Jeſt. Why, you muſt know that of late *Dick* in the way of his Vocation has taken up the Trade of nurſing the By-blows of the Whigs; and would you believe it, a ſcurvy Raſcal who calls himſelf *Theophilus Rationalis*; but I am confident he has another name, and this is only Jeſuit-faſhion, ſent poor *Richard* one of his Baſtards to put forth, and it had the Diſeaſe, and has infected poor *Richard:* but that which is much wondred at, is, that it was ſent in a Letter by the penny Poſt, like Mr. *Pyms* Plague-plaiſter.

Earn. Come, leave your Myſtery and Hieroglyphick; what's the meaning of all this?

Jeſt. Why, to tell you the plain Engliſh on't, our Friend *Richard Implement* hath like a true Proteſtant Tool, printed a Book that hath ſomething in it that looks like High Treaſon.

Earn. High Treaſon! that's a pitiful buſineſs now a-days, it is but taking a Cliſter of *Ignoramus*, and that carries it all off as round as a Hoop; but pray Sir, what is High Treaſon?

Jeſt. I cannot tell what the *Bromidghams* call ſo, but I think that was High Treaſon for which the Jeſuits and *Coleman* took a turn at Tyburn; and and they ſay, that was for *endeavouring to ſubvert the Government.* Now Sir, your Friend *Richard*, and his penny-poſt man *Rationalis*, having neither the fear of God nor the Devil before their Eys, have conſpired together to compaſs, imagin and bring about this Deſign.

Earn. There will be a Frog in the Stocks then I doubt; but how do you make it out?

Jeſt. Even under *Richard* and his Friend *Thoph's* own hand in print; nay, and dedicated to his Majeſty in a learned Book intituled *Multum in parvo, aut Vox veritatis*, by *Theophilus Rationalis*, a perſon of Quality, and a moſt true Lover of his King and Countrey, printed for *Richard Janeway* in *Queenſhead Alley* in *Paternoſter-Row* 1681. there's my Evidence; have you any thing to object againſt them?

Earn. Right ſpecial *true Proteſtant Evidence* as a man would deſire, if he wanted Evidence to hang his Father; but to the Fact let's hear what they can ſay?

Jeſt. B'y'r leave Sir, let me take my own time and way pray, in managing my Evidence; and firſt I deſire to be informed, if this Kingdom be not an antient hereditary Monarchy?

Earn. Who ever doubted it? it is a Maxim in our Law,, *Rex non moritur*, the King never dies, becauſe being an hereditary ſucceſſive Monarchy the next Heir does in that Inſtant that the one King dies perſonally, immediately ſucceed him; the Throne of *England* admitting no more an *Interregnum*, than the Philoſophers ſay Nature does a *Vacuum.*

Jeſt. Well then, is not the changing this Hereditary Monarchy into an Elective, a ſubverſion of the hereditary Monarchy?

Earn. Who doubts it?

Jeſt. And is not endeavouring to ſubvert it ſomething like Treaſoniſh?

Earn. Well, ſuppoſe it be, what then?

Jeſt. I have only one queſtion more to ask; Whether printing, publiſhing, and perſuading the King and his People to turn this ancient Imperial Hereditary Monarchy into an Elective Monarchy be not doing a mans weak endeavour, as the man did who thraſh'd in his Cloak to ſubvert the Monarchy and preſent Government?

Earn. Why, ſure no body is ſo mad to offer any ſuch thing.

Jeſt. Look you now, I thought I ſhould catch you vilifying my Evidence; but I aſſure you they are as true Proteſtant Evidence as *Paternoſter Row* affords, they are no Tories, nor Tantivies, no ſuborn'd Villains, *Iriſh* nor *Papiſts.* Come Mr. *Rationalis* and Mr. *Richard Janeway*, what can you ſay to this matter? pray Read their Depoſitions.

Earn. Multum in parvo, &c. printed for *Richard Janeway*, &c. Epiſt. Ded. To the Kings Moſt Excellent

cellent Majesty, &c. *I dare be bold to affirm, that if Your Majesty will be pleased to peruse these lines, and to take Your future Measures accordingly, that Your Majesty may yet be (unless the Decree be gone out already against us for our total Ruin and Destruction) one of the greatest and happiest Monarchs this day in the Christian World*; verbum sapienti, &c.

Earn. Well! here's a saucy Fellow *Thoph Reasonable* is more bold than welcom with the King, what then?

Jest. Why! then in the conclusion, he tells you what are the Measures the King must take, *page* 52. after he had recited a Prophesie which he had no body knows where, and means no body knows what; he adds, *And here although I cannot divine, neither dare I assume so much boldness to prescribe the way and means to accomplish this wonderful Prophesie; yet I am apt to conjecture and do perswade my self that if ever it shall come to pass, it will be in a very Critical time of common and Eminent danger (peradventure the dread of a Popish Successor, and the dismal consequence thereof) when some good Prince or other shall be so far graciously pleased to condescend to his grand Council, as to make three Kingdoms by his Royal* Fiat (aut le Roy le veult) *for the future* Elective; *and now Courage* most noble loyal and Courteous Readers, *What say you if his present Majesty of great* Britain *should be this person here described in this wonderful Prophesie?*

Earn. What say you quoth I? I say Mr. *Rationalls*, and Mr. *Richard* for ought I know it may be as much as your necks are worth to talk at this rate. But what if his Majesty should not take his Measures or fulfill his Prophesie by making three Kingdoms Elective, what then?

Jest. A man must tell you a Tale and find you a Memory; Why? then the People are to conclude, *the Decree is gone out*; and the whole Pamphlet or Libel is by comparing 40 and 41, to 80 and 81, to insinuate that the same Effects will follow his Majesties dissolving Parliaments as did his Fathers; and for your satisfaction pray read a few of his Rhimes *page* 49, which possibly affirm as much.

A Wonder strange I will you tell,
From Heaven 'twill be and not from Hell,
When as King Charles *shall be content*
In Love to meet his Parliament;
And let them sit for to redress
All grievances both more and less,
Which in our Church and State have been
E're since our blessed Virgin Queen,
Until this Day which makes us bleed
And cry we want some nursing Seed,
To cool us in scarlet Feaver
This is the Time, or else for ever
Adieu to Peace. War will begin
In this our Land.——————

And so he goes on, his whole Balad being a Libel upon the King's late Declaration, and threatning those who occasioned the Dissolutions, and a plain incitement of the People to Sedition and Rebellion, by persuading them there is a Fatality in the Case.

Earn. Call ye me this *Vox veritatis*, these *Voxes* are all of a Family I find: there's his Cosins, *vox Populi*, and *vox Patriæ*, all alike, and for subverting the present Government.

Jest. Sir, it is *multum in parvo*, that is, so much, that many a man has been hang'd for less.

Earn. This *true Protestant Doctrine* of Elective Kingdoms is perfect Popery both in Principle and practice: *Bellarmine* the great Jesuit is clearly for *Elective Monarchy*, and pray who made the Empire Elective but the Pope, and who made *Poland* Elective but the Pope? and now do but see how the *true Protestant* Fanecs, as *Thoph* calls them, cry out against the Pope, and yet cry up Popery.

Jest. Well, You may talk what you will, it comes all to this reckoning at last, that what is Popery in a Papist, is no Popery in a *Queens-head Alley Protestant*; Nay, I believe ere long Plotting and conspiring to subvert the Government will be no Treason in a *Paternoster* man; and *Dick* has taken great care for a Jury against he comes to his twelve Godfathers.

Earn. Oh Sir, *The Power and priviledges of Juries asserted*; there's a Piece for your information.

Jest. Well, *Dick* loves to be doing though it be nothing to the purpose; Was there ever any body so silly to question the excellency of our Constitution of Trials *per pares?*

Earn. We are for mens acting according to Conscience as much as the Informer; and this is the quarrel, Whether a Jury can in a matter of Fact sworn and proved by six substantial Evidence, wherein the life of the King and the peace and safety of the Kingdom are all concerned, act according to Conscience in bringing in upon Oath that they believe not a syllable of it.

Jest. Ay, there is the pinch, and pray inform *Dicks* Informer and his men of Conscience a little, or desire them for their own sakes to give us their Reasons which they would never sit brooding upon so long if they were not addle.

Earn. Then pray observe what Reasons there were to sway the Conscience of any honest man to find the Bill; 1st, Here was the positive Evidence upon Oath of six Witnesses. 2dly, Here was the life and safety of the King. 3dly. Here was their own dearly beloved *Salus Populi Suprema lex*, the peace and safety of the Nation in danger. 4thly, Here was the credibility of the Witnesses, men approved and believed by Parliament in the Popish Plot and the late Lord *Staffords* life. 5thly, Here's all the dangerous Consequences that may happen, if this should be a real Conspiracy, by their damning the first Discovery. I say, here is all this to ballance their Consciences to find the Bill; besides that the Busnes of a Grand Inquest seems to be rather only to find that such matter of Fact was sworn, which is sufficient ground to find any Bill; and here their Consciences could have no doubt, the Petit Juries Consciences being by Law the proper Judges of the Credibility of Circumstances and Evidence: Now on the other side to secure their Consciences from the guilt and danger of Perjury, they must necessarily have more certain and clear Evidence that the life of the King was not in danger, that the Evidence swore falsly, that they were not persons of credit, *boni & legales hominis*, or otherwise they could not act according to Conscience.

Jest. Nay, if they can demonstrate that they will do something; and till they do we shall never believe they acted according to Conscience.

Earn. It is not saying they did not believe what was sworn, for that is but Fancy and Opinion and not Conscience; but they must shew us better Reason why they should not believe the Evidence than why they should, and that must be such Reason as upon Oath and by all concurrent Circumstances may convince the World that there was no such Design as was sworn, no such words spoken, no such Danger; and when they have gotten the art of proving Negatives, then we will believe them out of the reach of Perjury, and never till then; and all this flourish of *Dicks* Assertor of the Priviledges of Juries, is no more to the purpose than if he should infer, because Juries are to go according to their Consciences, that therefore all Juries do and ever did so.

Jest. Well, this silly Assertor has hindred us of two or three notable Prophesies in answer to *The. Rationalls*, but we'l give him as good as he brings one of these odd shortlies, I warrant him.

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